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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/874,327 | 06/06/2001 | William Christopher Duffy | 2339-0111P | 6116 |

2292 7590 12/23/2002
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| EXAMINER |
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REDMAN, JERRY E

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3634

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/874,327

Applicant(s)

DUFFY, WILLIAM CHRISTOPHER

Examiner

Jerry Redman

Art Unit

3634

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --***Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2002.2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.**Disposition of Claims**4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.**Application Papers**9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).a) All b) Some * c) None of:1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.**Attachment(s)**1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.6) Other: _____

Applicant's election without traverse of Group II (claims 1-18) in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 1, line 7, the phraseology "said cover member being formed to the shape of the duct" is not readily understood by the Examiner. Specifically, what is meant by "the shape"? Cross-sectional shape? In claim 10, line 7, the phraseology "said cover panel being formed to the shape of the duct" is not readily understood by the Examiner. Specifically, what is meant by "the shape"? Cross-sectional shape? In claim 15, lines 7-8, the phraseology "said cover member comprising a material modifiable in the field to conform to the shape of the duct" is not readily understood by the Examiner. Specifically, what is meant by "the shape"? Cross-sectional shape?

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 8-12, and 15-17 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dugger. Dugger discloses an access assembly comprising a duct (22), a fire resistant seal (74), a rectangular fire resistant cover member (10) in the

shape of the duct (22), a plurality of fasteners (see figure 2), and a plurality of wing nuts for mounting the cover member (10) to the duct.

Claims 3-7, 13, 14, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Great Britain patent to Dutton discloses the use of spring clips. U.S. patents to Wenz and Geiser disclose curved shaped access panels.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jerry Redman at telephone number 703-308-2120.



Jerry Redman
Primary Examiner